representatives of such unaided educational institutions. Suggestions received would form input to a suitable legislative proposal as and when it is finalized.

**Out of school Muslim children**

2003. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a study by UNESCO, 13.5 million children in the age group of 6-13 years in the country are out of school with Muslims being the most affected section of the society;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Social and Rural Research Institute commissioned to estimate and classify those children who were out of schools on the basis of gender and social category has reported that school drop-out rate is highest among the Muslims in India; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken to minimize the drop-out rate of school children especially Muslim children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) UNESCO, in its Education for All Global Monitoring Report-2007, has referred to a Nation-wide Sample Survey on out of school children conducted by the Social and Rural Research Institute in 2005. This Nationwide Sample Survey was commissioned by the Government of India under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).

Referring to this Survey, the Report says that the number of out of school children has halved from 25 million in 2002 to 13.5 million in 2005. This Report also notes that the variations by social group were much larger than those by gender or place of residence: the out-of-school rates were 10.0% for Muslims, 9.5 for scheduled tribes, 8.2% for scheduled castes, 6.9% for other backward castes and 3.7% for the remaining social groups.

(c) A multi-pronged approach has been adopted under SSA for reducing drop-out rates. One set of interventions relates to strengthening of schools and improving the quality of education through improvement in school infrastructure, recruitment of additional teachers, annual school grants, regular training of teachers, regular academic support to teachers etc. In addition, several interventions under SSA also aim at community support,

flexible schooling for children who are drop-outs, older children or children in difficult circumstances, and special provisions to promote education of girls, children from disadvantaged sections of society or children with special needs.

**Distribution of answer-sheet copies**

2004. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to instruct all higher education bodies to provide photocopies of answer-sheets to the graduate students in the country, by charging them a nominal charge;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it will be started by fulfilling the long standing demand of students and their parents; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), there is no such proposal under its consideration.

**Omission of yoga from competition**

†2005. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether yoga has been omitted from Inter Universities National Sports Competition;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it would be a shock for yoga lovers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. According to the information furnished by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), the discipline of yoga (M&W) was deleted from the schedule of Inter University Tournaments 2006-07, on the recommendations of Inter University Sports Board of India since yoga is considered to be

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.